String Quartet No.1
Invocation

Impressions of New York City

by
Lee McClure

dedicated to Ron Whyte

Movements

1) Time Past pg.1
2) Turning A Corner pg.3
3) Nuyorica pg.4
4) Magic City pg.8

duration: 4½ minutes

These four songs are derived from the choral composition, "Invocation" with text by Ron Whyte, music by Lee McClure. It was premiered by the *a cappella* octet, The Accidentals, directed by Margaret Dorn. The concert was part of the Eclectix new music series at CAMI Hall, NYC.

Lee McClure

October 2024

Developing the music of Gershwin, Ravel, Weill, Copland and contemporary Jazz, Lee McClure is one of the most melodic composers in the last 50 years of classical music. His lyricism is distinguished by unexpected turns of traditional harmony and undercurrents of searching.

JoAnn Falletta, conductor of the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, has written about Lee's music:
Symphony No. 1 *"I found it to be a really beautiful work! I look forward to studying it"* (2015).
Film Noir Memoir, *"What a stunning work! And you had two great players to bring it to life. Amazing horn! Congratulations on a beautiful piece."* (2022) (performed by Jennifer Montone, 1st horn of the Philadelphia Orchestra)
String Quartet No. 1 *What a great piece! I loved the "scenes"- very evocative of my city! It is an excellent and very fun work. Warmest bravos. (*2024) (performed by ETHEL at Composers Concordance concert)

In March 2023 Lee won the composition competition "Generations XII" hosted by Composers Concordance who presented in concert Lee's winning composition, Pocket Suite No. 1 which contains three jazz preludes for classical piano.

Now 77 Lee was the first champion of new melodic music during the 1980s when concerts of new music were dominated by atonal strident dissonances. In 1985 he founded the Eclectix Chamber Orchestra that has presented the music of more than 130 living composers. ***The New York Times*** has written: *"Ecelctix, a group dedicated to presenting melodic music in the tradition of Debussy, Gershwin, and Ellington performs in New York"* (1989). *"Most of this repertory grew out of a tonal, melody-accompaniment tradition, and a lot of it by way of American popular culture"* (1988). Watch the Youtube: *From The Eclectix Stage* to hear 18 recordings from 1986 to 2001.

The six album box set "Lee McClure Collected Works" became available in 2020 on BandCamp.
A concise and expandable list of Lee's works is available at All Works, with Links.

Lee's classical compositions include 2 operas, symphonic, modern-dance, choral and chamber works. Premiered at the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine (NYC) the first of his two operas with librettos by the Pulitzer-Prize-nominated playwright Ron Whyte was *Mother And Child*. The Gregg Smith Singers premiered Lee's *Litany to the Holy Spirit*. One of Lee's major dance scores is *Suite No.2 from The Voyage* for two pianos. His orchestral piece *Hiatus* was reviewed by Tim Page in ***The New York Times***: *"It was probably the most distinguished piece on the program: the harmonies had bite and the musical ideas seemed both organic and Mr. McClure's own"* (1986).

Played on 40 radio stations in the United States, Lee's CD, *A Jazz Christmas Like You've Never Heard* was reviewed in ***O's Place Jazz Magazine***: *"This is not your traditional Holiday album. For sure Lee has managed to transform, twist and provoke our imaginations with this work. It is truly a unique approach, the music is great and the lyrics are familiar"* (2009).

For his self-designed electric flute Lee has composed and performed an extensive repertoire since 1990. Playing a traditional silver flute into a microphone, he routs the sound through 12 processors and a sampler. In 2007 Lee founded the Eclectix Dance Company for which he created music on electric flute and conceived scenarios, choreography, lighting & costume design. His major works for electric flute include *Rock Adagio*, *Lonely Woman New Orleans After Katrina*, *Metamorphosis*, *Burnt Siena*, and *Through A Glass Darkly.*

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String Quartet No.1

INVOCATION

dedicated to Ron Whyte

LEE McCLURE

#1 Time Past

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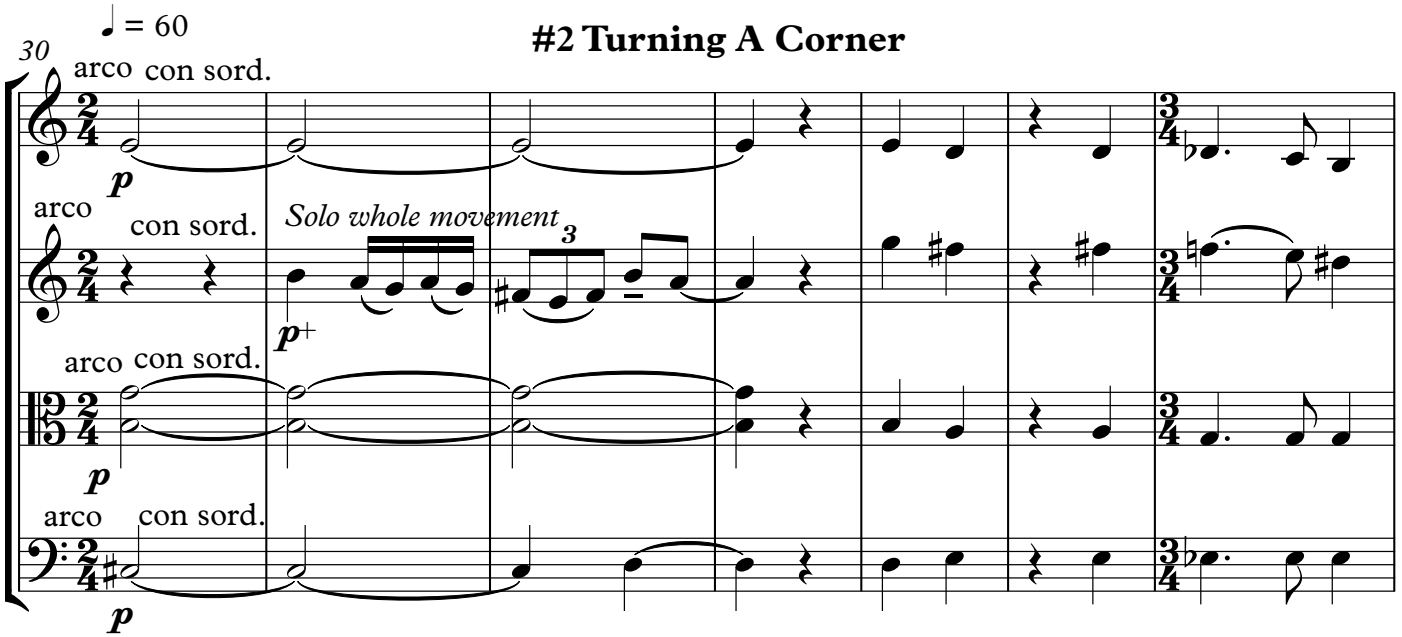
11
(5)
(6)
mf
f
15
Solo thru bar 27
pp
mp+
p
(1)
mp
cres. poco a poco
19
separate repeated notes
(2)
(3)

#2 Turning A Corner



37
mp
mf
p
44
senza sord.
Attacca
♩. = 54
#3 Nuyorica
51
pizz.
(1)
bow down? = 2-finger pizz bar 65
con sord.

56
(2)
(3)
mf
mf
arco
con sord.
Solo thru bar 72
gliss.
mp
f
mf
60
(4)
(5)
3
gliss.
mf
64
(1)
4
4
f
mf
f

67
(2)
mf
gliss.
f
70
(3)
gliss.
gliss.
senza sord.
pizz.
73
arco
mf+ Solo molto espressivo, especially the gliss's
pizz.

76
gliss.
mf
mf
mf
79
hold till Vn2
picks up bow
arco
arco
arco
f
f
f
mp
mp
mp
82
4
4
4
4
3
3
3
f
f
f
f
2/4
2/4
2/4
2/4

#4 Magic City

♩ = 76

102
107
113
cres poco a poco
cres poco a poco
cres poco a poco
cres poco a poco

118
f
124
sfz
mp
gliss.
f
sul D
sul G